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* Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" Sir, they are inseparable. I am reminded of the wanton way in which cruelties were believed to have been perpetrated by the armies brought down with all the speed of special trains from Assam and el ewhere; the military came there ignorant of the people, and I was told at that time that some others who had some unfortunate resemblance to the Mappillas were wantonly shot. They caught hold of the Cherumas also judging perhaps from their mode of tonsure that they were Mappillas. The troops probably considered that the Mappillas were ubiquitous. Most horrible things were then reported to have been perpetrated. Then came that wagon tragedy. Sir, I need not narrate the tale of injustice that was meted out to the Mappillas. I would simply mention that it is time that Government should do some penance for all those wrongs.

" The Mappillas are a virile race. If the country's manhood, strength and prosperity are to be kept up, the Mappillas should not be taken to the Andamans. It is in the interest of the Hindus as well as the Muhammadans inhabiting this province I wish to point out to the Government the unwisdom of their persisting in this most inhuman, uncivilized and unbecoming action.

" Yesterday, Sir, I had the privilege of attending the Khilafat Conference at Mayavaram and they have passed a resolution. I was moved by the feelings of the people who attended the conference on this Andamans question. They have sent up a resolution to the Government and to the President of the Council and perhaps the post has not been expeditious enough to bring it in time. They have appealed to all classes of people, Hindus and Muhammadans alike, and I echo this appeal to see that this great injustice to a most deserving race is not allowed to be perpetrated."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

Appendix I.

[Vide answer to question No. 340 asked by Mr. J. A. Saldanha at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 24th August 1925, page 565 supra.]

Letter from Mr. T. Roberts, Balmatta, Kankanady P.O., South Kanara, Mangalore, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Mangalore, the 25th April 1925.

Referring to the proceedings in the Legislative Council of 17th March 1925 as to the assignment of lands to ex-military men, on a motion made by Mr. J. A. Saldanha, M.L.C., I beg to make this representation on behalf of the ex-soldiers and their families in this district.

I have been the Honorary Correspondent and a Member of the District Soldiers' Committee here since its formation about two years ago and feel it my duty to bring to the notice of Government what I have experienced in the course of my humble efforts to find relief to the ex-army men and their families in need.

2. When the Committee was formed, I received from the Collector a list of over 100 ex-army men in and near this town and I saw over fifty men and women (widows and widowed mothers of deceased and absent ex-soldiers) not mentioned in the above list. I believe there are as many more throughout the district. The majority of these war-service men are Christians (Catholics and Protestants).

3. The objects of the Committee are—

(1) To find work for the unemployed ex-soldiers.

(2) To secure educational facilities to their children.

(3) To secure land for their settlement.

(4) To give pecuniary aid to the widows and orphans of those who died after the war, as they do not get any pension and are in distress.

4. To secure employment, I saw the managers of firms and factories and pleaded for war-service men, but except a Parsee and one or two European firms none showed any willingness to employ them. A few men were employed temporarily now and then in public offices but were sent away when permanent vacancies occurred. These men after repeated petitions and attempts which ended in nothing left the district and went away and their families are in distress.

5. It was not an easy thing to secure the educational concessions. The school authorities levied fees from the children of war-service men even when the latter possessed the necessary certificates. I had to see them and explain matters. Then they pleaded ignorance of the Government orders and I had to ask them to address the Educational Authorities, and sometimes I myself had to write to the Collector. Experiencing such difficulties, I do not think that all who deserve the concessions have applied for the same. In such cases as have come to my knowledge I have done what I could.

6. There were many applications for land from ex-service men. Some got small plots but many were refused on the ground that no land was available or the lands applied for were reserved for depressed classes and other purposes. In some cases rocky hill slopes in distant places were pointed out where man or beast cannot live. Seeing that a large portion of Chambugudde land in Ullal village was reserved for depressed classes, I suggested to the Collector that a similar area out of it may be set apart for ex-army men who are homeless and my request was supported by the Revenue Divisional Officer, but the reply was not favourable. Specific questions were asked in the Legislative Council about the treatment of war-service men in the matter of finding employment and getting land, and the answer was " Government have no information." The information could have been obtained from the Collector. There are several ex-soldiers and their widows who have not yet got a bit of land, although they applied for it more than once. Unless the Shanbhog (Karnam) is pleased there is no hope of the poor ex-soldiers getting anything. When an application goes to the village official the stereotyped reply is " No land is available or the land applied for is reserved." But the relations or castemen of officials get lands without difficulty; they even knowingly encroach and build upon and enclose land applied for by war-service men, and there is none to question them.

7. I will quote one or two instances to show what acute difficulty and disappointment are experienced by ex-army men to get anything even from officials who are expected or supposed to be sympathetic to war-service men. A certain man who got a bit of ground near the Ullal Railway station nearly

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two years ago tried several times to get possession of it, but the Shanbhog disappointed him. The man was at the same time looking for an employment in this district, but having failed he left the district and went to North India where he got work. From there he wrote to me about the Shangbhog's conduct and asked me to get the plot marked out and shown to a relation of his. I spoke to the Tahsildar and also wrote on 25th October 1924 when he directed the Shanbhog to mark the plot on a certain day (1st November 1924) in my presence. But the Shanbhog did not turn up nor had he a word of excuse. So I wrote to the Tahsildar again on 8th November 1924 and a reminder on 12th January 1925. After about a month the Shanbhog saw me and arranged to meet on 10th February 1925. On that day he did not complete the business on the ground that his man (Ugrani) was sick and up till now the thing is not finished and the grantee is paying assessment every year without being able to make any improvement on the land !

Two of my sons were in war-service and how they were treated is shown in a representation, dated 10th July 1924, addressed by me to the Legislative Assembly and Council and copies of it were sent to the Members of Government also and the matter is still before them. My eldest son who had his own work before the war finding it very difficult to find work after the war applied for a few acres of land to settle as a farmer. He tried for four years with five Collectors but in vain and he passed away last year in a strange country. My third son was also in the war-service as a medical officer. Two years ago he got a small plot of Government waste ground in Kotekar village. Adjoining it is a road margin of about 18 cents. He applied for it in line with the road margin already granted to another war-service medical officer, but has not yet got it, although during the last two years he has been going from post to pillar and from pillar to post in order to get it. The Local Fund Department recommended its grant. The Tahsildar would not grant it. On appeal the Divisional Officer recommended but the Collector refused. I then applied to the District Board President on behalf of my son. The matter was again referred to the Local Fund Engineering Department and after a long delay the plot was granted on yearly lease and the Local Fund Overseer collected the lease amount three months ago, but nothing has been done yet to mark the plot and put in possession. In the meantime a portion of this plot has been occupied, built upon and enclosed by a casteman or relation of an official and there was none to object to it, though the encroachment was brought to the notice of the Authorities. But the Local Fund Overseer's direction to me is not to occupy the land until the lease is executed !! This may take some months more. Such is the consideration shown to war-service men who have endured untold hardships and misery.

I can mention more instances, but think it unnecessary. I fail to see any concession in the grant of small plots to ex-service men. The ordinary assessment is levied; even a few pies are collected as seigniorage on grass. The plot cannot be alienated for ten years and is liable to be resumed if not improved within a year. Ordinary darkhast is free from such restrictions.

8. As regards securing pecuniary aid for the relief of the widows and orphans of war-service men in distress, my experience has not been less discouraging. Since about a year and a half I have been going from house to house for contributions and very often I had to come back utterly disappointed; even wealthy men have turned me back. A Municipal Councillor subscribed Rs. 2 in December last, but has not yet paid although seen over

a dozen times! I have sadly realized the Indian's never-ending promise "I will pay to-morrow". The apathy of the public in general and officials in particular has been a revelation to me. Some seem to think that the war-service men are a nuisance, while others think and say that the war-service men should be taken care of by the Government and English people for whom they fought and some Europeans say that Indians should take care of their widows and orphans. But for the generality of the majority of the Englishmen here (who are only a few in number) my collection would have been very poor.

Some months back I brought to the notice of the Collector some cases of destitute sickly widows (with children) who desire permanent help from Government or some big fund such as India and Burma Relief Fund or the Madras District Soldiers' Board which appears to have large funds at its disposal; but nothing is heard as yet.

Two or three of these widows hold His Majesty the King's Memorial certificate in which it is enjoined that those who come after should not forget those who at the call of King and Country left all and gave their life. I see from the "Fouji Akbar" (Army News) that service men and their families in North India are treated very liberally. Some were paid even Rs. 300 and Rs. 200 to clear their debts, to meet marriage expenses, etc. Here none got more than Rs 20 (twenty only) during the last year although there are men who lost everything by fire and shipwreck. In the Lower Sutly valley 75,000 (seventy-five thousand) acres have been reserved for war-service men—vide "Fouji Akbar" of 1st November 1924, 13th December 1924, 7th March 1925, 14th March 1925, etc. I wish 100 acres were reserved for our men here. On the other hand, hundreds of acres have been set apart for depressed classes which may not be utilized for another century. The war-service men in their present condition (landless, homeless and hopeless) may be rightly treated as a section of the depressed classes and a good portion of the abovesaid reserve be allotted to them. What I have represented above is corroborated by an article headed "Ex-Service Men" by "Justice" in the *Madras Mail* of 6th March 1925.

9. The war-service men and their widows do not o' late see me as often as they used to do before. When I meet them and tell them that they can come and tell me if they are in need of anything, their sullen reply is "Why to trouble you, Sir, again and again when the Government people are mocking at our misery; how many petitions, how often to go to taluk kachari and to the Shanbhogue or here and there and waste our time? These touching words of war-service men who at one time risked all and some have lost all are ringing in my ears always. What they say has been my experience also and myself being in indifferent health and despairing of being able to do anything substantial for them, I resigned my place on the District Soldiers' Committee. I accepted it (with hesitation owing to my age) at the desire of a Divisional Officer who was transferred afterwards. Three officers came after that but I got no help whatever from them. Being without any help even for out-door work (taking message, etc.) and the address of many war-service men not being given in the list sent to me I could not see all of them (though I wished very much to do so) as they are widely scattered in and out of the town of Mangalore. I know that many ex-army men and their families are still suffering in silence and their wants and grievances will not be known until they are brought under the care of a special officer like

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the Protector of Depressed Classes throughout the Presidency The impression of the war-service men is that the present method is simply a makeshift with no real sympathy in it.

" Much was promised but little is done ".

MADRAS SOLDIERS' BOARD.

Memorandum No. 1182-1, *dated 22nd June* 1925.

[District Soldiers' Committee, South Kanara—Complaint against the working of—Mr. T. Roberts' letter, dated 25th April 1925.]

The Madras Soldiers' Board has enquired into the allegations against the working of the South Kanara District Soldiers' Committee made by Mr. Roberts and it finds that except in the matter of grant of educational concessions to children of ex-army men the charges are either too vague to be further investigated or are based on incorrect information.

Educational concessions.

Instances might have arisen in which difficulty was experienced by children of ex-army men in obtaining educational concessions available to them. With a view to making these concessions more widely known the Board has recently printed and supplied to the Presidents of District Soldiers' Committees vernacular translations thereof for distribution to Honorary Correspondents and for advertisement on notice boards in all Treasury and Taluk offices. The President, District Soldiers' Committee, South Kanara, has also undertaken their republication in the district.

The Board notes that the South Kanara Committee was almost first to raise funds by private subscription to afford relief to the dependents of ex-army men who were in indigent circumstances. The Committee has also endeavoured to do its best in other directions as well, such as assignment of lands and provision of employment to ex-army men.

Some of the accusations made by Mr. Roberts date back to the time when he was himself an Honorary Correspondent of the Committee and the Board is surprised to note that he himself failed in his duty to bring the matters to the notice of the Committee.

As regards the appointment of a Special Officer suggested by Mr. Roberts, the Board is not convinced that it is either justifiable or necessary.

E. M. GAWNE,
Secretary.

To Mr. P. Roberts, Balmatta, Karkanady P.O.
Copy to the Collector of South Kanara.